



**COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION**

1. (currently amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer obtained by free-radical polymerization of a monomer mixture consisting essentially of

- a) 80 to 20% by weight of hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl (meth)acrylate and, optionally, one or more compounds of the formula (A) or (B)

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with R<sup>1</sup> = H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>2</sup> = H, CH<sub>3</sub>,

R<sup>3</sup> = C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl

or mixtures thereof

in the presence of

- b) 20 to 80% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and
- c) optionally 0 to 20% by weight of other polymerizable compounds (C),  
at least one other polymerizable monomer selected from acrylic and methacrylic acids are crotonic acid, mono(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)-alkyl maleates, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, (meth)acrylonitrile, ethylenically unsaturated (di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>)-alkyl dicarboxylates, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids or sulfonic acid derivatives, acyclic N-vinylcarboxamides and N-vinyl lactams.



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2. (original) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the free-radical polymerization is an emulsion polymerization.
3. (previously amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein hydroxyethyl methacrylate is employed as hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl  
(meth)acrylate.
4. (previously amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (A) are selected from the group  
of methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.
- B<sup>1</sup> 5. (previously amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (B) are selected from the group  
of C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-vinyl esters.
6. (previously amended) A process for preparing water-soluble or water-dispersible  
copolymers as claimed in claim 1 by free-radical polymerization in an aqueous or  
nonaqueous but water-miscible solvent or in mixed nonaqueous/aqueous  
solvents.
7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polymerization takes place in  
the presence of from 30 to 55% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol.
8. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least one water-  
soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1 as coating agent,  
binder and/or film-forming excipient.
9. (canceled)